

Announcements and Church News

Our Sick

Dottie Curls and family sick and unable to be out; Ashley Wygal— for her pregnancy; Emily George for sciatica; Teresa Broyles and Vicky Lube—cancer trmt; Joyce Stanley, Kim Taylor, Nancy VanWinkle, health issues.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR FAMILY/FRIENDS; Tammy Odom's brother Robert; The Broyles— friends daughter, Teresa Moon for serious injuries; Dolly Martin's sister Patsy/health issues; Kim Taylor's—brother recent hip surgery; Regina Hunter's sister, Cynthia for health issues and friend Kim recovering of knee surgery; Samantha Jones daughter Ariel, brother Eddie and son Joshua; Carol Mitchell— tumor on liver; The Stewart's—bro-in-law Russell Holt; Clifton Reynold's son Bryce; Susan Villoch's dad James/heart issue; The Kozola's son Tim; David Sain's—wife Phyllis; Yllka Bejo's—mother for broken hip; Van Stewart's—aunt, Linda Parsons and cousin Paula in the hospital; Dianne Stewart's—brother, Bobby Goodfield and sister Lynn Owens; The Stingles—niece's baby; Paula Davis'—niece/ lupus; Darrell Broking/for health issues.

PRAYERS FOR CANCER:

Tim Martin of Pinellas Park church of Christ; Dyianna Thompson's brother-in-law, Rodney; John Benson's friend, Wendell; Ranny Reeves neighbor, Linda Wall; Randall Deily's— uncle; Linda Haddock's niece, June McCray; Carol Untied's stepmother Emily; Debbie Methvin's—friend Michele Fuguero; Deb Adams friends son, Jason; Van Stewart's sister Tracey and cousin Paula; Ronnie Sommerville's dad, Ron; Mattie Simmons friend William; Sandy Caldwell's bro-in-law Larry; Kay Jessup's friends, Lou and Rose Fiores also co-worker Marie Woleck.

INMATES: Antwaun Thompson, Willie Newton & Tom George.

OUR SERVICE MEN: Sam Wagner and cousin Mark Wagner (Navy) Austin Reyes (Marine) Matthew Holleran (Army)

Activities

NEXT LADIES BIBLE CLASS— Friday, January 6th at 1:00pm in the small building.

FSOP LECTURESHIP— The 48th Annual Lectureship at the Florida School of Preaching in Lakeland is from January 16th-19th. The title is the Rise of the Messianic Kingdom. Flyers are in the foyer.

RESPONDED— Last Sunday morning Tammy Odom and Randall Diely came forward needing the prayers of the church.

FOYER TABLE— The Calendar and the Schedule of Those to Serve for January has been prepared and is on the table in the foyer.



REMINDER—Weekly sermons are available on CD, our website and livestream on Facebook and YouTube Sundays at 10:30 & 5:00pm and Wednesdays at 7:00pm.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Announcements—Joe Bonelli
Song Leaders—Joe Bonelli/James George
Opening Prayer—Matt Pryor/Van Stewart
Lord's Table—Max Herman
Closing Prayer—John Benson/Dennis Cuckler

Birthdays This Week

Rick Mirra—December 30th
Mark Warady—December 31st

December 25, 2022
 centralofchrist@gmail.com
 www.centralofchrist.com

Office: (727) 446-4808
 1454 Belleair Rd. Clearwater, FL 33756-2357



Gospel Broadcasting Network

http://gbntv.org YouTube

https://spiritualsword.org/



SEARCH
 OF THE LORD'S WAY

TV Channel 44 (WTOG) at 7:30am Sunday YouTube
 watch & hear Phil Sanders



YouTube (24/7) to hear Jeff Archey



fsop.net



soaringforsouls.com



Childhaven Children's Home in Cullman, AL
 www.childhaven.com



cocindia.net



fairhavenchildrenshome.com

www.christiancourier.com

Arnold Town Road Church of Christ—Darrell Broking
 Chalmette Church of Christ—Mark Lance
 South Anchorage Church of Christ—Michael Dale

Elders:

Joe Bonelli Charles Broyles
 James George

Deacons:

Max Herman
 Van Stewart

Preacher: Charles Broyles

Office: 727-446-4808 Cell #: 423-240-9075

Sunday Bible Study—9:30AM
 Charles Broyles

Major Prophets—Ezekiel 36-37

Sunday AM Worship—10:30AM

Charles Broyles

Home For The Holidays

Luke 15:11-13

Sunday PM Worship—5:00 PM

Charles Broyles

God Can Use You

1 Corinthians 15:10

Ladies Bible Study-Friday

January 6th at 1:00PM

Wed. Bible Study—7:00PM

Charles Broyles

The Divine Godhead

All of our services are available on Facebook Live and



YouTube

YouTube Live!



From the Preacher's Pen

**THE STRUGGLE TO KEEP OURSELVES
SEPARATE FROM THE WORLD**

Roger Campbell

The ancient city of Corinth was filled with debauchery. Enthrallment with human philosophy, devotion to idols, and immoral living were common marks of the Greek culture of that day.

God called on His church at Corinth to be different. Through the apostle Paul, the Spirit appealed to the Christians there not to walk hand in hand with those who walked in darkness. The clear charge to every single saint was, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord..." (2 Cor. 6:17). The people from whom they were to remain separated were the slaves of evil works.

That sounds easy enough. They are darkness; we are light. They belong to Belial/Satan, but we belong to the Christ. They go to a temple of idols, while we are the temple of God. Of course, there will remain a constant distinction between us and them, and, of course, we will not share in their evil deeds. Alas, at times we may feel like it is so challenging to maintain our distinction. Yes, from time to time we might find ourselves struggling to have the courage to walk in the path of godliness rather than compromise with the servants of Satan. Why is that? Why do we at times find it difficult to maintain our separation?

One factor is the reality that sin is pleasurable. To his credit, Moses chose not to "enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season" (Heb. 11:25). While sin's pleasures are only temporary, the fact that the devil makes sin appealing and pleasurable cannot be denied. If there were no pleasure/rush to it, sin would not be attractive. We must be careful not to let our guard down, never losing sight of the fact that sin is deadly, causing its participants to be separated from God.

Another factor which can make it difficult to remain separate from the world is the popularity of evil. The masses endorse it and revel in it. Many are ignorant of God's standard of morality and proper living, while others understand the Lord's truth but choose to disregard it. Living in such a wicked environment can weigh heavily on the thinking of God's children. Sadly, some decide that if so many folks are doing it, surely they are not all crazy, so the way of sin may not be so harmful after all. Remember what God told His children in ancient times: "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil" (Exodus 23:2).

An additional factor is that some of God's people seem to feel uncomfortable standing out as being different from others. It makes them feel uneasy inside. Look, the Lord calls on each disciple of Jesus to keep himself unspotted from the world (James 1:27). Maintaining our distinction from the ways of darkness is part of being a faithful follower of Jesus. We need to be strong and maintain our separation, regardless of how outsiders view us. May the Lord help us never to feel uncomfortable making the right choices!

"But, don't you think weakness of the flesh plays a role in a person's struggles to walk in the light?" There is no doubt about that. Jesus told His weary apostles in the Garden of

Gethsemane, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matt. 26:41). Our weakness can make it tough to lay aside certain habits, but we must not give ourselves "a free pass" by telling ourselves that, since we all have weaknesses, God will not hold us accountable. Rather than try to downplay the sin that we allow to raise its ugly head in our lives, let us have a heart that is ready to repent in godly sorrow (2 Cor. 7:10), asking the Lord to be our Help and Strength (Psalm 46:1).

One disheartening source of temptation for some of us does not come directly from the world, but rather it comes from worldly members of the church. It is disheartening to see such called-out folks think, talk, and walk just like the world does. And the truth is, sometimes such world-likeness can weigh on our minds and tempt us to lower our guard or even join them. Brethren, let us trust in the Lord and stay bravely committed to carry out His plea to "shine as lights in the world" among those whom He calls "crooked and perverse" (Phil. 2:15). When betrayers like Judas and forsakers like Demas make their decisions to go the way of the world, we must not allow their foolishness to cause us to waver.

In not a few places, the church is more worldly than it was a few decades ago. Why is that? For one thing, some brethren never hear strong sermons from the pulpit which exalt godly living and tell the truth about the works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21).

In some instances, permissive parents play a part. They are afraid to put their foot down and take a stand with their children, so the kids live lust-fulfilling lives with few, if any, restrictions. Being separated from darkness is the last thing they seek to do. Dads and moms, we need to admonish our children with God's word and insist on practicing self-control.

The destructive influences of humanism, permissiveness, and the negative aspects of the entertainment industry have infiltrated the thinking of many soldiers of the Christ. When one's thinking is worldly, the mouth and conduct of such a person will go that way, too. Let us maintain our distinctiveness. It is the Lord's will that we do so!

The longer I live, the more I realize the effect of attitude on life.

Attitude is often more important than facts.

Attitude is more important than the past.

Attitude is more important than circumstances.

Attitude is more important than what other people think, say or do.

Attitude is more important than appearance, physical skill, or mental capacity.

Attitude will make or break a company—a church—a home—or a person.

I have a choice every day regarding the attitude I will have that day.

I cannot change the past. I cannot control the future.

But I can control my attitude about the past and the future.

It is said that life is 10% what happens to me, and 90% how I react to it.

It is all up to me, because I control my attitude.

Author Unknown